OPINION 1178

MEGASTERNUM MULSANT, 1844, AND *CRYPTOPLEURUM* MULSANT, 1844 (INSECTA, COLEOPTERA): TYPE SPECIES DETERMINED

RULING.– (1) Under the plenary powers, all designations of type species hitherto made for the nominal genera *Megasternum* Mulsant, 1844 and *Cryptopleurum* Mulsant, 1844 are set aside, and

(a) *Dermestes obscurus* Marsham, 1802 is hereby designated as type species of *Megasternum* Mulsant, 1844;

(b) *Sphaeridium minutum* Fabricius, 1775 is hereby designated as type species of *Cryptopleurum* Mulsant, 1844.

(2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology with the Name Numbers specified:

(a) *Megasternum* Mulsant, 1844 (gender, neuter), type species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1)(a) above, *Dermestes obscurus* Marsham, 1802 (Name Number 2117);

(b) *Cryptopleurum* Mulsant, 1844 (gender, neuter), type species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1)(b) above, *Sphaeridium minutum* Fabricius, 1775 (Name Number 2118).

(3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Numbers specified:

(a) *obscurus* Marsham, 1802, as published in the binomen *Dermestes obscurus* (specific name of type species of *Megasternum* Mulsant, 1844) (Name Number 2739);

(b) *minutum* Fabricius, 1775, as published in the binomen *Sphaeridium minutum* (specific name of type species of *Cryptopleurum* Mulsant, 1844 (Name Number 2740).

HISTORY OF THE CASE Z.N.(S.)2075

An application for the use of the plenary powers to designate type species for the genera *Megasternum* Mulsant, 1844 and *Cryptopleurum* Mulsant, 1844 was first received from Dr A. Smetana (*Biosystematics Research Institute, Ottawa, Canada*) on 20 June 1974. It was sent to the printer on 27 August 1974 and published on 31 December 1974 in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 31,

pp. 244–246. Public notice of the possible use of the plenary powers in the case was given in the same part of the *Bulletin* as well as to the statutory serials and to seven entomological serials. Apart from a request by the late Dr. H. Lemche that a separate vote be called for on each nominal genus, no comment was received.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 14 December 1979 the members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (1979)27 for or against the proposals set out in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 31, p. 245, (a) concerning *Megasternum* Mulsant, 1844, and (b) concerning *Cryptopleurum* Mulsant, 1844. At the close of the voting period on 14 March 1980 the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative Votes (for both (a) and (b)) – twenty-three (23) received in the following order: Melville, Holthuis, Bayer, Mroczkowski, Willink, Vokes, Corliss, Tortonese, Trjapitzin, Alvarado, Brinck, Hahn, Habe, Heppell, Welch, Starobogatov, Sabrosky, Ride, Kraus, Dupuis, Nye, Halvorsen, Binder

Negative Votes – none (0)

Abstention – Cogger

No voting paper was returned by Bernardi.

Dr Cogger observed: 'I abstain from voting on both proposals. The questions of stability and usage are addressed superficially, without any supporting evidence beyond broad, unsubstantiated statements.' Professor Brinck suggested that the type of *Dermestes obscurus* Marsham, 1802 should be checked. Mr M.E. Bacchus (*British Museum, Natural History*) kindly did so and found two Marsham specimens. One, labelled "holotype" by Balfour-Browne (see *Entomol. mon. Mag.*, vol. 75, 1939, p. 5) should presumably be regarded as the lectotype. Both specimens belong to the species currently known as *Megasternum obscurum* (Marsham, 1802).

ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references for the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

Cryptopleurum Mulsant, 1844, *Hist. nat. coléoptères de France*, Palpicornes, p. 188

Megasternum Mulsant, 1844, *Hist. nat. coléoptères de France*, Palpicornes, p. 187

minutum, Sphaeridium, Fabricius, *Syst. Entomol.*, p. 68

obscurus, Dermestes, Marsham, 1802, *Entomol. Britannica*, I. Coleoptera, p. 72.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the votes cast on V.P.(79)27 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that voting paper has been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 1178.

R.V. MELVILLE
Secretary
International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature
London
17 September 1980